

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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"Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord" Psa. 55:22

BY DR. GEORGE W. TRUETT
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

Now there is one more word to say, and it is the best of all: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." If you will read this 55th Psalm, from which that great promise is taken, you will find that the utterer of such promise wanted to flee away. "Oh, that I had wings like a dove," he cried, "for then would I fly away, and be at rest." The burdens were so weighty, the awful conflict was so fiery: "I will just leave it all. I will just throw this thing down, and I will get away. I will flee. I will run. I will give it up. I will not stay with it." Who has not felt that? Who has not felt — "I have had as much of this as I can bear. I will get out of it. I will run. I will fly. I will get away." But that would not win, for when you got away out there in the wilderness, you would have your burden yet, for you have your memory, you have your personality, you have yourself. You cannot thus get away from life's burdens. There is the burden of perplexity for you, no matter where you go; and there is the burden of the consciousness of neglected duty, no matter where you go; and there is the burden of some sin athwart your conscience, like some ghastly cancer, no matter where you go. What are you to do with these burdens of perplexity and neglected duty and sins? What are you to do? Where are you to go? There is only one place. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee."

How will He sustain you? He will do it in one of two ways. He may take the burden away. Sometimes He does, blessed be His name! You have come sometimes, as have I, into that deep garden of Gethsemane, when that black Friday broke all our plans, and in our dire desperation we have prayed, with the Master: "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me. If it be possible, forbid that I should drink this bitter cup that is being put to my lips." And the cup was taken away, and we did not have to drink it at all. Time and again you have prayed, as you faced a certain great burden, that God would remove it, and He heard,



DR. GEO. W. TRUETT

and the burden was taken away. But suppose it is not? And sometimes it is not. Ofttimes it is not. We pray, but there is the burden yet. Now, what if God shall not take the burden away? Then He has promised to come in with divine re-enforcement and help us to bear that burden and be victor, no matter how weighty it is, nor how fiery in its biting power in our life. Paul had re-enforcement. He had a thorn in the flesh. I do not know what it was, nor do you, but it was something very trying. If ever there was a genuine man in the world, it was the Apostle Paul. He was the highest product that Christianity has ever produced. This same man said: "There was given to me a thorn in the flesh." He called it the "messenger of Satan," sent to buffet him, and he said: "I went like the Master in the garden, and thrice did I beseech the Lord that He would take that thorn away, but He did not take it away at all. He left it, to goad me and harass me and burn me and pain me. But He said to me: Paul, my grace is sufficient for you" — not "shall be," but "is." "My grace is sufficient for you," here and now, ever-present and never-failing. No matter

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Union Revival, Freeport, Ill.

The editor is in a four-weeks revival campaign with the Laymen's Evangelistic Committee from leading churches in Freeport, Illinois. Services are held in the Odd Fellow's Temple, seating about 1,000 people. The last week we have had happy conversions practically every night, sometimes three and five in a service. Conviction is deepening. Crowds are coming from far and near. Mrs. J. H. Wilson and Miss Dorothy Wilson came from McComb, Mississippi, to spend four days in the revival. Two families came from Waterloo, Iowa, to spend two days. Four nights there have been groups from Dubuque, Iowa. One car-load came from Princeton, Illinois, and others have come from far and near.

Raymond MacAfee, senior in Wheaton College, baritone soloist for the Wheaton College Glee Club for two years, is song leader and is doing a fine job. His tender solos and his enthusiastic leading are a real blessing.

A good many pastors attend the services from in and out of Freeport. The First Baptist Church, United Brethren Church, Church of the Brethren, Zion Reformed Church, and I think others, have dismissed Sunday night meetings so members can attend the revival. The editor has preached on Sunday mornings in the United Brethren Church, the Church of the Brethren, and will speak two Sunday mornings in the First Baptist Church. Most active pastors in the meetings are Rev. Aubrey White of the First Baptist church, and Rev. H. I. Newell of the United Brethren Church.

This is written Saturday night, July 12th. Services continue two more weeks, through July 27th. The growing interest, the burden of prayer, the concern of Christians for lost sinners all indicate that God will give us an increasing tide of blessings in the coming weeks. We covet your prayers.

God's Great Invitation

BY REV. T. MYRON WEBB



REV. T. MYRON WEBB

(Sermon delivered Sunday morning, June 22nd, 1941, over radio station KVOO, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. Stenographically reported.)

Prayer. Again this morning I want to speak to the souls of men. I want to, by the grace of God, lead you to the fountain of living waters; to your ever present help in the time of trouble. I want to take you by the hand and lead you beside the still waters.

I am addressing you who have not yet crossed the deadline: those who still have a spark of spiritual fire smouldering in your bosoms, a spark that bears possibilities of being fanned into flame. You who, whether you have audibly admitted it or not, are confronted with the ancient question: Whence? Why? Where?

From whence did I come?
Why am I here?

Where do I go from here?

I want to talk with you who still have somewhere in your soul, a consciousness of deep need. I want to talk to you who have drunk deeply the dregs from Hell's iron gin. I want to reason with you who have feasted upon every delicacy the world affords and still are not satisfied. I want to speak to you who have imbibed freely of all the pleasures of the world and find them inadequate for your soul's need. I want to talk to you who have once looked at the world through rose-colored glasses and find now at the end of the way that you have been looking upon an illusion. I want to talk to you who have sacrificed all that you have upon the altar of greed and have gained that which has brought no satisfaction to your soul. I want to talk to you ladies who have bent every energy in attaining social position, only to find your life dull and tasteless. I want to speak

to you who are tired of it all: you who have experienced every thrill and pleasure that sin provides. I want to have a heart-to-heart talk with those of you who once dreamed of happiness, serenity, social prominence as being the means of supreme happiness, and you have found only broken hopes, dispelled illusions, shattered ambitions and a troubled soul.

I want to take you away from it all. I want you to follow me with your mental train.

I want you to give God a chance to do for you what you have been unable to do for yourself.

I want you to let the God of all grace reclaim your life: saturate your dehydrated soul with living water, feed your denied and starved spiritual man with living bread.

I want you to let Him pull aside the curtain which has kept your soul shrouded in darkness and let Him smile upon the dark recesses of your heart.

THIS MORNING I WANT YOU TO GIVE EAR TO THE MOST GRACIOUS INVITATION EVER GIVEN TO MAN: Revelation 22: 17:

"And the Spirit and the Bride say, come! And let him that heareth say come! And let him which is athirst come! And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

Listen, friend, God is speaking to you this morning. He is inviting you to Stop! Look! and Listen! Nineteen hundred times in His Holy Book, God says to a sin-sick and care-worn world: "Come." Yet men and women have treated His invitation lightly. They have stopped their ears and have closed their eyes. Nevertheless God's first invitation is:

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"Lord, I'm So Glad I Came!"

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

The other night a man came to Christ in the services in Freeport, Illinois. He had listened intently to the sermon; and when a friend spoke to him he came out at once to confess Christ openly and boldly, striding down the aisle manfully. After the service I gathered the converts together and went over a number of scriptures with them, asked them questions, explained the Scriptures until I felt salvation was definitely clear to all, and that each one had peace with Christ. Then we bowed to pray, and each one of them thanked the dear Lord Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

When it came time for the man I have mentioned to pray, he prayed like this: "Lord, I thank you for saving me. I'm glad I came tonight. I've been wanting to come such a long, long time!"

How his words accused my soul! We have been thinking that hearts are hard, that sinners do not care, that no one wants to be saved. And here was a man who,

when he came to Christ, said, "Lord, I'm so glad I came. I've been wanting to come such a long, long time!"

The evening before my little daughter and I went down to the drug store for an ice cream cone and a sandwich for supper. The man who waited on us was most kindly, but I did not have courage to speak to him about his soul.

And that night when I gave the invitation for people to accept Christ, here he came. He did not have on his apron. He was dressed up nicely. And he said, "Do you recognize me? I am the man who waited on you tonight at the drug store?" I had not recognized him. Then I discovered he was the husband of a woman who a week ago, the first Sunday morning of the campaign, had come out openly to claim Christ as Saviour. And he had been shaken to his very depths, wounded by the gospel, hungry-hearted. And he had served me my sandwich and treated me kindly,

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"GARY" - A CHRISTIAN AT COLLEGE

Omitted this week — crowded out by pictures of office workers. Will be continued next week.

12 Signs of Backsliding

To Be Read and Pondered Over on the Knees Alone With God

1. When you grow bolder with sin, or with temptations to sin than you were in your more watchful state — then be sure something is wrong.

2. When you make a small matter of those sins and infirmities which once seemed grievous to you and almost intolerable.

3. When you settle down to a course of religion that gives you but little labor, and leave out the hard and costly part.

4. When your God and Saviour grows a little strange to you, and your religion consists in conversing with men and their books and not with God and His Book.

5. When you delight more in hearing and talking, than in secret prayer and the Word.

6. When you use the means of grace more as a matter of duty, than as food in which your soul delights.

7. When you regard too much the eye of man, and too little the eye of God.

8. When you grow hot and eager about some disputed point, or in forwarding the interests of some party of Christians, more than about those matters which concern the great cause of Christ.

9. When you grow harsh and bitter towards those who differ from you, instead of feeling tenderly towards all who love Christ.

10. When you make light of preparing for the Lord's Day, and the Lord's Table, and think more of outward ordinances than you do of heart work.

11. When the hopes of heaven and the love of God do not interest you, but you are thirsting after some worldly enjoyment and grow eager for it.

12. When the world grows sweeter to you and death and eternity are distasteful subjects.

ALL THESE ARE SURE SIGNS OF A BACKSLIDING STATE.

(Reprinted from Bishop Oxenden's Pathway of Safety.)

GOD'S GREAT INVITATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"Come unto me and hear" (Isa. 55:2, 3).

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness: INCLINE YOUR EAR AND COME UNTO ME; HEAR, AND YOUR SOUL SHALL LIVE."

You have undoubtedly had many invitations in your life. You have probably accepted many of them. Perhaps you have been to hear some noted speaker, some philosopher, some politician, some scientific discourse, BUT WHAT YOU HEARD DID NOT SATISFY YOUR SOUL OR BRING PEACE TO THE INNER MAN, but never a man spoke like this man.

God is inviting you to hear, not the atheistic absurdities of some asinine agnostic; not the futile fantasies of some fevered brain; not some unauthorized, unreasonable, unreliable utopian dream. God is inviting you to hear the words of eternal life: "INCLINE THINE EAR AND COME UNTO ME AND YOUR SOUL SHALL LIVE."

"If You Have Never Accepted This Invitation, Your Soul Is Dead"

There is such a thing as being alive, yet dead. This may seem strange to you, but nevertheless this fact is manifested on every hand. You may be intensely alive in the flesh, your health may be excellent, your physical strength unabated, your eye may twinkle with vibrant energy, your face may radiate with dynamic physical force, BUT IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TO JESUS, YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD. Your own unconcern concerning spiritual things is evidence of your own dead soul.

You may be intellectually keen, your brain may function with an alertness coveted by many, your intellectuality may be far above the average, YET YOUR SOUL MAY BE SLEEPING IN THE TOMB OF DEATH. Indeed, because men have made no distinction between intellectuality and spirituality, the most brilliant minds of the world are propelling healthy bodies which are nothing more than caskets shrouding dead souls. This is the place where the educator and the scientist have missed the bus. They have not discerned the difference between body, soul, and spirit.

You may be the most brilliant lawyer in the world, but if you have never met Jesus Christ, the sinner's advocate, YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD.

You may be the richest banker in the land, but if you have never become acquainted with Jesus Christ, the pearl of great price, you are a spiritual pauper and your riches only a gilded casket for a dead soul.

You may be a thirty-third degree Mason, but if you have never met Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, YOUR MASONRY IS ONLY A MARBLE SLAB marking the spot your dead soul lies in repose.

You may be the most beautifully gowned woman who ever yielded across the dance floor, but if you have never met Jesus Christ, the giver of life, your satin gown is but a shroud covering a soul which is "dead in trespass and sin," for "she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."

You may be a great student. You may have exhausted all the philosophies and sciences of the present day. You may have absorbed

in your mental economy all the discovered facts of modern science, BUT IF YOU HAVE NEVER SAT AT THE FEET OF JESUS, THE GREATEST OF ALL TEACHERS, your philosophy is dead, your science is dead, and your soul is dead.

The very fact that you have contempt for all things pertaining to life and Godliness is evidence enough that "you are dead in trespass and sin." The very fact that you are unconcerned over your spiritual conditions is evidence that you are spiritually dead.

Ignorance Is the Manifestation of Spiritual Death

God has been very careful in His Word to diagnose your condition. His Word which you have spurned and rejected paints your picture so graphically that I doubt if you in all your blindness can fail to see your own photographic reproduction.

YOU SAY THAT GOD IS NOT TO BE KNOWN, THAT THE BIBLE IS A MYTH, THAT THE WHOLE SPIRITUAL REALM IS TOO COMPLEX TO UNDERSTAND. Yes! That is what you are saying, and God foreseeing your wretched condition, diagnosed your case and wrote it in His Book before you came forth from your mother's womb.

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened . . . Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21, 22).

And now, my friend, if you are not satisfied with your identification from a front view photograph, God has given you a profile "close-up" in Ephesians 4:18, 19: "Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

Oh, but you say, "No man can know anything of the future! No man can be sure of anything. If man is lost, no one can know how to be saved and it is all too mythical for me." Again you plead guilty to your own lost and dead condition, for God has painted a third picture of you; this time a semi-profile which unmistakably identifies you forever with those who have never had a spiritual resurrection. Listen to this graphic description in His Book of books:

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:3, 4).

The Author of Life Says, "Come Unto Me and Live"

God did not say, "Go unto Confucius and live." God did not tell you to go to Buddha for the words of eternal life. God did not command you to go to the halls of science "falsely so-called" in order that you might live. Men blinded by the god of this age, with their brain stupefied by the anesthesia of sin and poisoned by the false god of atheism have made the sad mistake of "SEEKING THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD." They have sought wisdom from the creature rather than the Creator. If you want eternal life, you must seek Him who is the Creator of life. You may have sought the words of eternal life from Confucius, Plato, Socrates, or others of God's creatures, BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE THOSE WORDS. THEY THEMSELVES HAD NO LIFE IN THEM. They are dead. Their bodies sleep in the tomb of time. Their philosophies died with them. DEAD MEN CANNOT GIVE LIFE.

God said, "Come unto me and your soul shall live."

Dear friend, if you want eternal life, you must go to Him who is eternal. If you want the words of life you must go to Him who has life. Peter found eternal life but he did not find it in the philosophies of his day. He found the words of eternal life but he did not find them from the recognized religionists. He found them as they fell from the lips of the One who was before them all; the One who was

above them all; the One who has outshone them all as the sun outshines the tallow-dip in brightness and splendor.

When Peter wanted fish he turned to the sea. WHEN HE WANTED ETERNAL LIFE he sought the One who was life itself. Addressing Jesus he said:

"Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou alone hast the words of eternal life . . . And we believe and art sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." (Jno. 6:68, 69).

Today the World Is Making the Same Mistake It Made Two Thousand Years Ago

Two thousand years ago God sent His only begotten Son into the world to give it life. Jesus Christ the faithful witness, testified to this great truth: "I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND LIVE MORE ABUNDANTLY" (Jno. 10:10).

The religious world rejected Him then and for two thousand years they have been reaping from their folly. They have been stumbling in the light of noon-day and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Two thousand years ago God offered this world a King, a king who would rule and reign in righteousness and judge with equity; BUT THEY CHOSE CAESAR, and for two thousand years this world has been suffering under the tyrant's heel of oppression. This blind world is seeking peace WHILE REJECTING THE PRINCE OF PEACE. They are seeking justice while rejecting the JUST ONE.

And just as blindly you who are listening to me today, are seeking something which will satisfy your soul and you cannot find it in the things which this world provides. You have a hunger which cannot be satisfied until you have eaten of the living bread which comes down from heaven. You have a thirst which can never be slaked until you have drunk of the living water given by God to the thirsty soul of man. Oh! blind, unreasonable, benighted, deluded man:

Listen To God's Pleading Question

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isa. 55:2).

God is chiding you! God is seeking to warn you! God is imploring you to stop spending your energy for that which will bring your soul no satisfaction. Stop spending your money for that which satisfieth not. Oh, can't you see, my poor blind friend, that you are seeking in vain for that which God is willing to give you freely?

You have spent your energy climbing the ladder of fame, BUT YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED. You have bent your energies and sought to amass riches, but if you will admit the truth, your miserable soul is wretched. You have given yourself to seeking the plaudits of the fickle crowd, but your life has been but a passing show and YOUR SOUL IS EMPTY AND YOU KNOW IT!

Listen, friend, you are following the path of disappointment. You are only walking where others have walked before you. You are only seeking that which has been sought by others. You are only indulging yourself in the things THAT BROUGHT NO SATISFACTION TO OTHERS.

David was a great king, but he was not satisfied. David was very rich but he was not satisfied. David was a great philosopher, but he was not satisfied. David was a great musician but David was not satisfied. David was never satisfied until he came into intimate knowledge and inseparable contact with God.

God says, "HEARKEN DILIGENTLY UNTO ME AND EAT THAT WHICH IS GOOD, AND YOUR SOUL SHALL DELIGHT ITSELF IN FATNESS."

My dear friend, you have forgotten that you have a soul. You have pampered the lusts of your flesh but the pampering failed to bring satisfaction. You have fed your ego, but have found that your egotism brought no satisfaction to your soul. You have clothed yourself with silk and satin WHILE

YOUR SOUL HAS BEEN STARVING.

Where Did David Find Satisfaction?

David did not find satisfaction in his rank or position. He did not gain it from the scepter he wielded or the miter he wore. He did not find satisfaction in the arms of his many wives. He did not find satisfaction at the head of his armies or sitting upon his throne. Indeed all this time his soul was empty, his life, like yours, was miserable.

Man is a triune being: body, soul, and spirit. There is nothing in this round world that will fill a triangular-shaped heart but the triune God who created him, for while David was the exalted king of a great kingdom surrounded with all the luxuries wealth could provide, he cried:

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God . . . My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? . . . My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God" (Psa. 42:1-3).

Solomon Sought In Vain But Only Walked In the Path of Disappointment

Solomon, David's son, was the wisest king ever to reign upon the earth. He, like you, pursued the butterfly of pleasure. He, like you, worshipped the god of gold and greed. He, like you, sought to feed his soul by satisfying the lusts of the flesh; and Solomon so far excelled your greatest efforts that you can never hope to overtake him. He far exceeded in riches anything you will ever attain. His wealth would make the combined fortunes of Henry Ford, Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, and others, look like pin money. Solomon was no piker. He tried the legitimate and the illegitimate. He had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. He sought to follow the path of wisdom. He philosophized of divine revelation. He brought entertainers to his palace by the thousands. He drank all the wine a king could produce, BUT FOUND NO SATISFACTION FOR HIS SOUL.

After he had experienced every thrill of glamorous women, after he had tasted all the glory of the greatest king upon the earth, after he had dwelt in the finest mansion ever built, with his own pen he recorded the folly of it all. His conclusion was:

"IT IS ALL VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT, AND THERE IS NO PROFIT UNDER THE SUN" (Eccl. 2:11).

Isaiah speaks just as forcibly and more graphically:

"It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh and his soul is empty: Or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite" (Isa. 29:8).

Christ Is the Living Bread Come Down From Heaven

Again let God repeat His question to you; and then let Him answer it from His Own Word:

"Why do you spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken unto me! Eat that which is good and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

CHRIST TESTIFIED (John 6:32, 33, 51):

"My father giveth you the true bread from heaven . . . For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world."

Then said they unto Him:

"Lord, ever more give me this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me, shall never thirst . . . I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever, and the bread that I will give,

"Lord I'm So Glad I Came!"

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and I never suspected that here was a wounded soul that wanted Christ and felt his need of salvation! After he was saved I wondered in my heart how many, many times I had casually passed by sinners who could have been won in a moment, had I only cared enough or had faith enough to bring the matter promptly to their attention and pressed for a decision for Christ!

A thirteen-year-old girl was happily saved in a revival service in Texas. When she had trusted the Saviour and was sure of His forgiveness, she looked up to me with a shining face, drying her tears, and said, "Now I will never be afraid to go to sleep any more!"

How many years had that child been haunted by the fear that she would die and go to Hell, but no one knew it! No doubt she was anxious to be saved long before this time, but no one ever urged her and helped her to the decision.

A little boy eight years old, the son of very active and Godly parents, was saved in Dallas. Then with a sigh that seemed almost comical for one so young, little Jerry Carpenter said, "Well, I am certainly glad to get that settled." He had had the matter on his tender heart, and the Holy Spirit had been dealing with him long before!

I won the president of the senior class of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas, to Christ. He was the honor student, the most popular young man in school, a member of the football squad, the son of a Baptist minister, yet when in my room he had knelt with me to pray and trusted Christ as his Saviour, he leaned his head on my shoulder and wept. Finally with tears he said, "No one ever cared whether I was saved or not!" God forgive us, how often had we, his teachers, his parents, his many intimate friends, had an opportunity to speak to him about his soul, but we never did. And all the while a deep anxiety burned in his heart, and the first time anybody urged him to do so, he trusted Christ!

I am sick of all the foolish alibis we make, saying that sinners are too hard to be saved these days. Those alibis are not true. Everywhere there are unsaved people who, like my friend at Freeport, have wanted so long to come to Christ and have their burdens lifted and their sins forgiven. It is true they ought to have come without urging, but it is even more true that Christians ought to have made the way easy and sought out sinners for Christ.

Saul of Tarsus, breathing out threatenings, went down to Damascus. He had been like a raging demon, dragging men and women to prison, and even killing them. He had taken part in the blood-thirsty murder of martyr Stephen. His name was a household word, and Christians trembled at it. But when the Lord Jesus spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus, he said to Him, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And no one ever knew, until then, that there was a constant pricking in his soul, the haunting memory of the shining face of the dying Stephen! No one ever knew until then that Saul, the hater, the murderer, the persecutor of Christians, had an ach-

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is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world."

Christ Gave His Flesh For Your Life

Two thousand years ago the Son of God went to the brow of Golgotha's Hill and paid the price for your transgressions. "In His own body He bore our sins upon the tree." Two thousand years ago the Lord Jesus Christ yielded His flesh to the smiting fist, to the cruel thorns, to the hissing scourge, to the cruel spikes to the wicked spear which drunk greedily from His side THAT HE MIGHT BLOT OUT THE SINS WHICH HAVE SEPARATED YOU FROM THE GOD WHO SATISFIES. With sin between, God cannot have fellowship with you. You will never experience satisfaction as long as your soul is separated from the God who created it. Your soul will

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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"Lord, I'm So Glad I Came!"

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ing heart and an uneasy conscience, and an unutterable longing for a peace that it seemed he could never find, though he was of the very strictest sect, a Pharisee!

How many formal, unconverted church members, how many self-righteous lodge members in their secret souls are as convicted as Saul was, and bothered by prickings of conscience.

Many like Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night would ask the way of salvation if some Christians were so manifestly concerned and loving and approachable as Jesus was.

The king of Israel walked proudly on the wall of his besieged capital city, Samaria. No doubt the general public believed that the famine had not touched him, that he had no sorrow, no want. But, . . . it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman (who had cooked and eaten her son) that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh" (II Kings 6:30). How many of the rich and mighty, dressed in the robes of fame and plenty, yet have sackcloth within upon their hearts.

President Calvin Coolidge, who "did not choose to run" for the presidency again, said that when his son died in the White House, the glory and honor of the presidency faded away. And I solemnly say to you that the unease of heart, the stinging of conscience, the fear of death, and the hunger for God that lost people have, but hide from us, make the harvest white, and the opportunity for soul winning infinitely beyond anything that it ever outwardly appears to be.

Who would ever have dreamed that the dying thief could be won in a moment? That cursing, railing thief? Yes, there would be a blessed trophy for the dying Saviour to take home to Heaven with Him that day! How many a criminal, how many a profane blasphemer, and drunkard has a hungry heart and is convicted by the constant tender dealing of the Holy Spirit, while their outward life seems to be utterly Godless, and careless, and unapproachable for the gospel message.

Who would ever have thought that that Samaritan woman with a shady past and a disgraceful present, that hater of Jews, that notorious character, could be saved! And yet how easy when the dear Saviour tenderly probed in her heart and found her consciousness of her guilt, and her longing for the coming of the Messiah!

Once in Sherman, Texas, a dear man approached me several times in two days, asking for a conference but not pressing the matter, and how surprised I was when I found that he wanted to claim the Saviour, that he had been cut to the heart by my preaching! What a shame I felt that a sinner had to run me down to get to claim Christ, instead of me hunting men down for God! And the man now is a deacon in a Baptist church, and a blessed, happy Christian.

Well did the poet write:

"Down in the human heart,
Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore.

Touched by a loving heart
Wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more."

Oh, Christian, how many, many lost people there are with hungry and aching hearts! How many have sickness in body, disappointment in marriage, failure in business, and remorse of conscience! How many are hungry for something that Jesus Christ can give! Then gather precious sheaves for the Lord while you may, and win somebody today!

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

—Matthew 5:14-16.

"Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

where you go, nor what shall come, "my grace is sufficient for you." And from that time on you have no more record of Paul's praying that that thorn might be taken away. From that time Paul said: "Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my thorn, glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Said Paul: "I had rather have my thorn in the flesh, which is ever present with me, and have God's added grace, than to be without that thorn and miss that added grace and light and love from God." Now, doesn't that explain much? He will give you increased grace, grace upon grace, if He does not take the burden away when you call on Him to take such burden away.

Oh, my men and women, with your burdens, whatever they are, here is the way out: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." Seek not to bear it alone. Seek not to fight out your battle alone. Seek not to solve that perplexity alone. Seek not to stem that flood alone. Seek not to go through that long and bitter night alone. Take the Master into your counsels and into your plans, and turn yourself over to Him, with your burden, whatever it is, and He shall sustain you.

One of the great words in the Bible is that fine word "sustain." He shall sustain you. No matter what your burden is — I dare to say it — no matter what your burden is, you shall get sustaining strength from God, and your heart shall surely know it, if you will only cast yourself honestly upon Him.

Have you learned the secret of peace? In a world of burden and battle and perplexity and clouds and shadows and night and death, have you learned the secret of peace? You will never know it until you learn how to cast your burden upon the Lord. I am thinking now of a strong man yonder in the city, whose beautiful wife was taken from him after an illness of just a few hours, and the man was left with a little flaxen-haired girl, of some four or five summers. The body was carried out to the cemetery, where was a simple service, and every heart was broken, the grief was so appalling. And then when the service was over, neighbors gathered around the big man and said to him: "You must come, with this little baby girl, and stay with us for several days. You must not go back to that home now." And the broken-hearted man said: "Yes, I must go right back to the same place where she was, to the room from which she went away, and I must fight it out with this baby right there," and back they went. He told about it all the next day. The baby was late and long going to sleep. Oh, was there ever anything more pathetic than the cry of a bairn for the little mother that will never come back again? Long and late the little one, in the crib there by the bed, sobbed because she could not go to sleep, and the big man reached his hand over to the crib and petted her and mothered her, as best he could, and after a while the little girl, out of sorrow for her father, stopped her crying — just out of sorrow for him. And in the darkness of that quiet time the big man looked through the darkness to God, and said: "I trust You, but, oh, it is as dark as midnight." And then the little girl started up her sobbing again, and the father said: "Why, I thought you were asleep, baby." And she said: "Papa, I did try. I was sorry for you. I did try, but I could not go to sleep, papa." And then she said, "Papa, did you ever know it to be so dark? Why, papa, I cannot even see you, it is so dark." And then, sobbing, the little thing said: "But, papa, you love me, if it is dark, don't you? You love me, if I don't see you, don't you, papa?" You know what he did. He reached across with those big hands and took the little girl out of her crib, and brought her over on his big heart, and mothered her, until at last, sobbing, the little thing fell to sleep, and then when she was asleep, he took his baby's cry to him, and passed it up to God, and said: "Father, it is as dark as mid-

"Explain the Baptism Of the Holy Spirit And Acts 19:1-6"

1. First Timothy 5:23: Why Should Timothy Drink Wine?
2. Second Timothy 3:16: All Scripture Inspired.
3. John 15:6: Will Withered Christians Be Burned?

Dear Friend:

Your letter of March 18th is at hand in which you asked me to explain Acts 19:1-6, and also about the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

In brief form I will give you what the Bible teaches on this question.

1. First, all saved people do have the Holy Spirit dwelling in their bodies all the time. You will see this from Romans 8:9; First Corinthians 6:19, 20; Second Corinthians 6:16. When Jesus arose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came in to dwell in the bodies of Christians. It was promised in John 7:37-39, and it was fulfilled in John 20:19-22 when Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Now every saved person has the Holy Spirit abiding in Him.

2. It is also true that every saved person is baptized or buried into the body of Christ, as First Corinthians 12:13 says. When one is saved, the Holy Spirit puts him in to the body of Christ, and makes him a part of that body.

3. But next, Christians ought to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have special soul winning power. The disciples needed this even after they were saved, and after Jesus had breathed on them and they had received the Holy Spirit to live in their bodies. See Luke 24:49. This came after Jesus had breathed on the disciples and they had received the Holy Ghost to live in their bodies in John 20:22. See also Acts 1:8. The Lord Jesus is simply speaking there about the power of the Holy Spirit upon us to win souls. God had the same thing in mind when He wrote Ephesians 5:18: "Be filled with the Spirit." Saved people are not always filled with the Holy Spirit. They ought to be and can be, but many are not.

The power of the Holy Spirit which was poured out on the disciples at Pentecost so filled them and surrounded and covered them that they were said to be "baptized in the Holy Ghost." In other words they were simply covered and surrounded and buried in the Holy Spirit. A little careful study will show that for Christ to pour out the Holy Spirit upon Christians to make them soul winners, is a different thing from the Holy Spirit putting every new convert into the body of Christ.

4. It is important to remember that Pentecostals have entirely the wrong idea about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes upon people to make them soul winners, and when they are filled with the Holy Spirit, it does not take out the carnal nature nor make people sinless and perfect as Pentecostal people say. And also notice that speaking in tongues is not the Bible evidence. Acts 1:8 shows that the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is soul winning power; power to witness for Christ and get people saved. Remember that when the New Testament speaks of "speaking in tongues," it simply means talking in a foreign language. Read Acts the second chapter again carefully, and you will see that when the disciples were filled with

night. I cannot see at all. But you love me, if it is dark, don't you? I will trust you, though you slay me. With my baby, and my grief, and my utter desolation, I will turn my case over to God." And then the darkness was like unto the morning! God always comes to people who trust Him.

Whatever your burdens — of sin, or grief, or doubt, or disappointment, or regret, or remorse, or conscious fear and failure — dare to cast your burden, yourself, your all, today and forever upon the Lord. Do it now while we pray. (From sermon, "What To Do With Life's Burdens," in book, *A Quest For Souls*.)

Unbelievers Blessed And Safe By Gospel Environment

What James Russell Lowell Once Said

On one occasion, when he could no longer stand the scoffs and sneers of a certain group of people, he rose in indignation and relieved himself as follows:

"The worst kind of religion is no religion at all; and these men, living in ease and luxury, indulging themselves in the amusement of going without a religion, may be thankful that they live in lands where the Gospel they neglect has tamed the beastliness and ferocity of men who, but for Christianity, might long ago have eaten their carcasses like the South Sea Islanders, or cut off their heads and tanned their hides like the monsters of the French Revolution.

"When the microscopic search of skepticism, which has hunted the heavens and sounded the seas to disprove the existence of a Creator, has turned its attention to human society and has found a place on this planet ten miles square where a decent man may live in decency, comfort, and security, supporting and educating his children unspoiled and unpolluted — a place where age is revered, infancy respected, manhood respected, womanhood honored, and human life held in due regard — when skeptics can find such a place ten miles square on this globe, where the Gospel has not gone and cleared the way and laid the foundations and made decency and security possible, it will then be in order for the skeptical literati to move thither and ventilate their views. So long as these men are dependent upon the religion which they disregard for every privilege they enjoy, they may well hesitate a little before they rob the Christian of his hope, and humanity of the faith in that Saviour who alone has given to man that hope of life eternal which makes life tolerable and society possible, and robs death of its terrors and the grave of its gloom."

(From the book, *Modern Discoveries Which Help Us To Believe*, by George McCready Price.)

the Holy Spirit, in that particular case they simply were given power to speak in a foreign language to people who were present and who understood them in their own languages in which they were born. How different that is from what Pentecostal people teach!

No, Pentecostal people do not have more than others can have and often do. They do not have really what they claim to have, many times. Certainly they are not sinless, and certainly they are not better soul winners than many, many others. And they are wrong in their doctrines about women preachers, about salvation by works, about speaking with tongues, and about sinless perfection.

The greatest preachers down through the years, including Spurgeon, Moody, Torrey, and Finney, believed in a definite anointing of Holy Spirit power as being necessary for the best preaching and soul winning.

What happened in Acts 19:1-6 is that there were some saved people who had not yet been filled with the Holy Spirit to give them soul winning power to witness for God. When Paul prayed for them, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they, in foreign languages, praised the Lord. Ephesus was a great city of mixed nationalities, so it is reasonable to suppose that each one praised God aloud in his own language. They certainly did not jabber in any unknown language.

Big Annual Banquet Planned For September

On September 28 *The Sword of the Lord* will be seven years old. We plan a big banquet to celebrate, with nationally-known speakers and musicians. We expect an attendance of several hundred people who will drive from hundreds of miles away or come by train or bus for this happy time of fellowship and spiritual revival. Further announcement will be made.

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Questions Answered by Editor
John R. Rice

Question 1: "What is the meaning of First Timothy 5:23? I thought you were not supposed to drink wine (except at the Lord's Supper)."

First Timothy 5:23 says: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." Wine in the New Testament very often means simply grapejuice. In fact, there is not a different word for wine and for grapejuice as we have, in the Bible times. When the juice was first squeezed out of the grapes, it was called *wine*, as you see from Proverbs 3:10 which says: "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." So grapejuice is wine, in the Bible sense. Later when the grapejuice ferments, it is still wine in the Bible sense.

There is no reason to suppose that the wine which Jesus made at the wedding in John, chapter two, was intoxicating wine. There is no reason to suppose that that which was used at the last supper and which New Testament churches used for the Lord's Supper was intoxicating wine. In fact, the Scripture takes particular pains not to call it wine, but instead calls it "the cup," and "the fruit of the vine." So the Lord seems to have specially guarded against being misunderstood on this point. However, if He had used the word *wine* it might have meant unfermented wine, that is, simply grapejuice. And that is what many, many churches use for the Lord's Supper, and what I think they should use.

In First Timothy 5:23 Paul simply meant that grapejuice would be good for Timothy's weak stomach, and fruit juice is usually good for weak stomachs.

Question 2: "What does Second Timothy 3:16 mean?"

Second Timothy 3:16 simply means that all Scripture is inspired of God, and that every bit of it is profitable and ought to be used by men. It is profitable for doctrine. It is profitable for reproof of sin, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. Don't neglect any part of the Bible. Use it all, since every bit of it is inspired of God.

Question 3. You say, "Please explain the parable where we are vines and if we don't bear good fruit we shall be burned."

You have reference here to the first few verses in John 15. This is explained in the booklet, "Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost?" Christians may become unfruitful and withered by not abiding in the vine. They are so worthless that if they were vines, men would gather them and cast them into the fire and burn them. However, God never says that He will burn His children.

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GOD'S GREAT INVITATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

be separated as long as sin is upon it. Therefore you can have no satisfaction. You can have no peace. "Peace, there is no peace, saith my God, for the wicked, they are like the troubled seas, casting up mire and dirt." But you can have satisfaction, FOR YOU CAN PARTAKE OF THAT SACRIFICE WHICH WAS OFFERED FOR YOU. You can satisfy your hunger the moment you confess Christ as your Saviour, for He said:

"I am the bread of life, he that cometh unto me, shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (Jno. 6:35).

Oh, beloved! Do not think your case is exceptional. God says, "WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM COME." The Lord Jesus Christ repeated the invitation, "WHOSOEVER COMETH UNTO ME I WILL NOT CAST OUT."

Peter ate of this bread and is alive forever more.

John ate of it and found that satisfaction.

Those who have tasted the pleasure of every sin and found no satisfaction, TESTIFY TO THE SATISFACTION IN CHRIST.

Yes, beloved, and your radio preacher tried all else before he tried the Lord Jesus Christ — but I found no satisfaction. I found no pleasure in the plaudits of the world, though I had my share. I found no satisfaction in the path of wine, the path of fame, nor in the path of wisdom. I found no satisfaction in the houses of bacchanalian revelry or in folly's court; BUT I HAVE FOUND SATISFACTION IN CHRIST. Tens of thousands of others testify of the same.

"O Christ, in Thee my soul hath found,
And found in Thee alone;
The peace, the joy, I sought so long,
The bliss till now unknown.

"Now none but Christ can satisfy,
None other name for me.
There's love and life and lasting joy
Lord Jesus, found in Thee.

"I tried the broken cisterns, Lord,
But, ah! the waters failed
E'en as I stooped to drink, they fled
And mocked me as I wailed.

"The pleasures lost, I sadly mourned,
But never wept for Thee
Till grace my sightless eyes received
Thy loveliness to see."

Who May Come? When May
They Come? How Can They
Come?

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye; buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa. 55:1). "And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17).

Beloved, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, and God is inviting you to partake of that life that you may live forever. God is inviting you

to trade your sins for a robe of righteousness. God is inviting you to exchange your crown of death for a crown of life. God is asking you to trade your inheritance of everlasting damnation for a mansion in the skies. God wants to take the ashes of your wasted life and make of them a monument of everlasting beauty. God wants to comfort your tired and restless soul, and He sent you an invitation through His own blessed Son who entreatingly calls to you, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest for your souls" (Matt. 12:26).

You may have a fine bed upon which you can rest your body, but you will have no rest for your soul until you have left the storm-tossed sea of life and cast your anchor in the haven of rest. You may be financially able to provide entertainment for the relaxation of your mind but your soul will remain as turbulent as the surging sea until you let the Prince of Peace say, "PEACE BE STILL."

God says, "Come without money and without price." Come for all things are now ready: God is ready to save you; He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. God's Son died for you that you might live. The door of heaven has been opened to men for two thousand years. God's feast was prepared when Christ gave Himself a ransom for the sins of the world. There is nothing for you to do but arise and present yourself at the banquet table and eat of the living bread, drink of the living water, feast upon the riches of His grace. God says, "Come now." "Now is the accepted time." "Today is the day of salvation."

"The King of Heaven His table spreads,
And dainties crown the board:
Not paradise with all its joys
Could such delight afford.

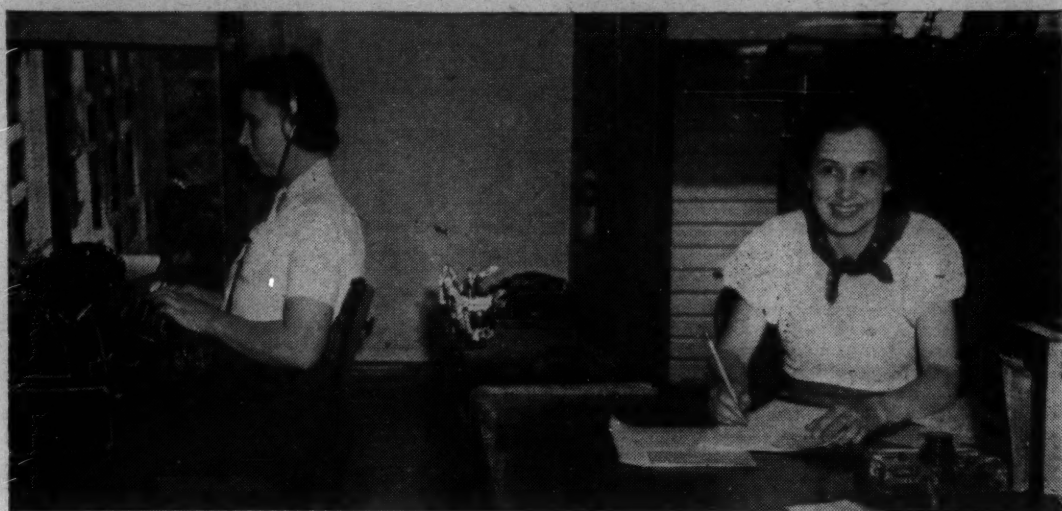
"Pardon and peace for dying men,
And endless life are given
Through the rich blood of Jesus
To raise the soul to heaven.

"Ye hungry, poor, that long have strayed
In sin's dark mazes, come,
Come from your most obscure retreats
And grace will find you room.

"Millions of souls in glory now
Were fed and feted here,
And millions more still on the way
Around the board appear.

"Yet in His heart and house so large,
That millions more may come,
Nor could the whole assembled world
O'erfill the spacious room.

"All things are now ready, come away,
Nor weak excuses frame;
Crowd your places at the feast
And bless the founder's name."



Above you see at the RIGHT Miss Lola Mae Bradshaw, formerly of Fort Worth, Texas, office manager, seated at her desk in *The Sword of the Lord* office, with her typewriter beside her. She has worked with the editor 9½ years, and often takes sermons in shorthand, besides reading manuscripts and general managing of the office. At the LEFT is Miss Fairy Shappard, formerly of Waxahachie, Texas, at her typewriter. The earphones she wears are connected by the tube to the Ediphone transcribing machine. She is listening to a record dictated by the editor and writing it out. The editor carries his dictating machine with him in revivals and ships records home to the office, hundreds of letters, articles for *The Sword of the Lord*, book manuscripts, etc. Miss Shappard has been with the editor 5 years, attends Wheaton College part time during school year.



At the LEFT is Miss Viola Walden, formerly of Dallas, Texas, who opens and reads, marks and classifies all the mail, keeps records and check book, and supervises mailing. She often takes down sermons stenographically and does other valuable secretarial work. Miss Walden has worked with the editor 7½ years. SECOND from the LEFT is Miss Tini Eubanks of Hammond, Indiana, wrapping one of over 1,800 copies of the book "AND GOD REMEMBERED . . ." On the RIGHT is the editor's oldest daughter, Grace, 18, at the multigraph machine. She is in charge of *The Sword of the Lord* file and is constantly busy checking new subscriptions, correcting the list. She also does shorthand and typing and general secretarial work. Grace has been two terms to Moody Bible Institute, hopes to enter Wheaton College in September, and now works full time, and will work part time while in college.



Here again is Elizabeth Rice, 14, at the graphotype machine, making stencils for mailing *The Sword of the Lord*. She works five days a week in the summer, nine or ten hours a week in school time.



Above is Mary Lloys Rice, just 16, at the addressograph by which every copy of *The Sword of the Lord* is addressed, using metal stencils made on the graphotype and carefully kept in files. Each stencil shows when the subscription expires. Watch your label! Mary Lloys is a senior in high school, works five days a week in the summer, nine or ten hours a week in school time.



Above you see the general sight on Friday, mailing day for *The Sword of the Lord*. Four of the editor's daughters and four office workers and Mr. H. S. DeVelde, are folding and wrapping copies of *The Sword of the Lord* for mailing. It is a real job to address, fold, wrap, assort in mail bags, and mail from 7,000 to 13,000 copies of *The Sword of the Lord* weekly. Mr. DeVelde, a retired high school teacher, living in Wheaton, loyally gives his time for the Lord each Friday, and other volunteer workers frequently help. Mrs. Rice often helps. The work is very fast and mailing lasts from four to eight hours.